



IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A processing apparatus operatively associated with a carrier device for carrying an article and adapted for processing the article, comprising:

a holder adapted to hold an article at a specified processing position,

a processing vessel formed with a processing chamber inside, including a first vessel member on which the holder is provided and a second vessel member arranged above the first vessel member, the two vessel members being operable to make a relative vertical movement therebetween from respective united positions where they are united with each other to define a processing chamber in which the holder is positioned, to respective separated positions where they are separated from each other to expose the holder to the outside and vice versa,

~~a holder provided in the processing chamber and adapted to hold the article at a specified processing position, and~~

a transferring apparatus for receiving the article carried by the carrier device and transferring the article ~~carried by a carrier device~~ to the processing position,

wherein the transferring apparatus includes:

a temporary holding member switchable between a temporary holding position of receiving the article ~~carried by the carrier device~~ at an intermediate position near above the holder ~~from the carrier device~~ and temporarily holding the article and a retracted position of resting outside of the processing vessel;

a position switcher provided on an outside of the processing chamber for switching the temporary holding member between the temporary holding position and the retracted position; and

a relatively movable carrier for ~~relatively moving~~ causing the relative vertical movement ~~the temporary holding member and the holder~~ such that the article temporarily held by the temporary holding member at the intermediate position is transferred to the processing position,

wherein the second vessel member has a skirt portion surrounding the process chamber,

the temporary holding member includes a plurality of rotatable shafts rotatably mounted on a vertical axis in the skirt portion of the second vessel member and projecting from the skirt portion toward the first vessel member and a plurality of temporary-holding-member main bodies each projecting in a radial direction of the rotatable shaft from the rotatable shaft, and the position switcher rotates the rotatable shafts to switch over the temporary holding member between the temporary holding position where the temporary-holding-member main bodies temporarily hold the article and the retracted position where the temporary-holding-member main bodies are outside the process chamber defined by the two vessel members at the united positions, and

the temporary holding member transfers the article from the intermediate position to the process position on the holder with the relative and vertical movement of the two vessel chambers.

Claims 11-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein each of the temporary holding member temporary-holding-member main bodies includes [[an]] a first article supporting portion for supporting the article from below at the intermediate position.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the carrier device ~~the transferring apparatus~~ includes ~~[[an]]~~ a second article supporting portion for supporting the article from below during the carriage of the article, and the thickness of each of the first article supporting portion ~~of the temporary holding member~~ is smaller than that of the second article supporting portion ~~of the carrier device~~.

Claim 19 (Original): A processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the holder includes a supporting projection projecting upward from a main body of the holder to locally support a specific part of the article from below, and a projecting distance of the supporting projection is set such that a clearance larger than the thickness of the article supporting portion is defined between the bottom surface of the other part of the article and the main body of the holder with the bottom surface of the article locally held in contact with the supporting projection.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A processing apparatus according to claim ~~[[13]]~~ 10, wherein ~~a plurality of the~~ temporary holding members are located at positions arranged along an outer periphery of the article, and hold an outer peripheral portion of the article at the temporary holding positions thereof and are retracted to the retracted positions located more outward than the temporary holding positions and located outside the vessel members when the two vessel members are united.